



IDEM's Surface Water Quality Assessment Program

Assessment Branch

Program Objective

The Water Quality Assessment Branch is responsible for assessing the quality of water in Indiana's surface waters (rivers, streams, and lakes). Virtually every element of the surface water quality management program of IDEM is directly or indirectly related to one or more activities currently carried out by this Branch. The biological and surface water monitoring activities identify stream reaches, watershed basins or segments where physical, chemical and/or biological quality have been or would be impaired by either point or non-point sources.

Program Participants

The Assessment Branch is composed of three sections which work together to collect data and assess the quality in Indiana's surface waters.

1. **Biological Studies Section** conducts fish and macroinvertebrate community studies as well as habitat assessments to establish biological standards to which all other streams may be compared in order to identify impaired streams or watersheds. In addition, this Section conducts fish tissue and sediment sampling to pinpoint sources of toxic and bioconcentrating substances. Fish tissue data serve as the basis for fish consumption advisories which are issued to protect the health of sport and subsistence fishermen. The Section also participates in the development of site-specific water quality standards.
2. **Environmental Toxicity and Chemistry Section** develops sediment criteria, reviews whole effluent toxicity data and reports, evaluates requests for site specific water quality standards, reviews data gathered during investigations of toxic releases to the environment, provides quality assurance review of data collected during field studies and laboratory analyses, reviews sampling plans for compliance with quality assurance project plans, and oversees development of Total Maximum Daily Loads for Impaired Waterbodies that are on the 303(d) list.
3. **Surveys Section** is responsible for sampling and assessing the quality of waterways and determining the effect of approximately 1,800 permitted point sources on receiving streams. They will provide data for models, 305(b) water quality reports and wasteload allocations for NPDES permitting purposes, as well as an assessment of non-point sources.

Program Description

Media: Surface Water: rivers, streams and lakes
Study Area: Statewide
Site Selection Type: see factsheets listed in Program Products section
Sampling Sites: see factsheets listed in Program Products section
Sampling Frequency: see factsheets listed in Program Products section
Data Collected: see factsheets listed in Program Products section

Program Product(s)

- ▶ Report: *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Strategy* - revised, IDEM 32/01/013/1998

Biological Studies Section

- ▶ Fact Sheet: Biological Studies Section, IDEM 32/01/006/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: Fish Community Sampling Program, IDEM 32/01/004/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: Fish Tissue Contaminant Monitoring Program, IDEM 32/01/005/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: Macroinvertebrate Community Assessment Program, IDEM 32/01/007/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: Sediment Contaminant Monitoring Program, IDEM 32/01/008/1998

Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Section

- ▶ Fact Sheet: Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Section, IDEM 32/01/003/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: Total Maximum Daily Loads, IDEM 32/01/018/1999

Surveys Section

- ▶ Fact Sheet: Watershed Monitoring Program, IDEM 32/01/001/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: Pesticide Monitoring Program, IDEM 32/01/002/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: Fixed Station Sampling Program, IDEM 32/01/012/1998
- ▶ Fact Sheet: E.coli Monitoring Program, IDEM 32/01/019/1999

Technical Notes

Please read the fact sheets listed in the Program Products section.

Contact Information

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<p>IDEM Information: (317) 233-1044 or 800-451-6027 800-743-3333(TDD) toll-free for Indiana residents</p> <p>EnviroLine: (317) 232-8603 or 800-451-6027 toll-free for Indiana residents</p> <p>Fax on Demand: 800-726-8000</p> <p>Internet: www.state.in.us/idem</p>	<p><u>For More Information on IDEM's Office of Water Management...</u></p> <p>Assessment Branch (Surface water quality: river, streams and lakes) Shadeland Office, Indianapolis (317) 308-3173</p> <p>Permitting and Compliance Branch (NPDES permits, inspections, operator assistance, and compliance) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 232-8675</p> <p>Drinking Water Branch (Public water supply and ground water protection) Shadeland Office, Indianapolis (317) 308-3280</p> <p>Planning Branch (Water quality standards/rules, grants and loans) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 233-8488</p> <p>Financial Administrative Services Branch (Program management, data management, rules) Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis (317) 232-8472</p>
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